

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in this application. Claims 8 and 9 are allowed. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 12 has been withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7,10-12 as being unpatentable over Moriarty WO9109193 in view of Drew and Midkiff. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-7, and 10-11, as amended.

Moriarty discloses a self-propelled floating debris collector for swimming pools. The collector comprises a central floating body (7) placed in the centre of a circular frame (22) to which is connected by support arms (15). The central floating body (7) encloses a pipe T-joint (8) connected to a water supply hose (14) through a T-piece (11). In particular, the T-piece (11) is connected to the water supply hose (14) and to the pipe T-joint (8) through swiveling hose connectors (10) and (13). Two water propelling jet nozzles (21) producing a pure rotation of the collector are arranged on arms (15). A further water propelling jet nozzle (12) projects by the T-piece (11). In particular, the jet nozzle (12) is free to rotate about the body axis for the presence of the swivels (10) and (13) thus the direction of the collector movement is random.

Drew discloses a floating debris collector adapted to float in a swimming pool and having hose connection means for the connection thereto of a water supply hose. The water causes the propulsion of the floating debris collector through the swimming pool through nozzles that cause propulsion by water jets. Drew provides intermittent water jets that are obtained connecting the nozzles to a valve, and a control means is provided (column 5, lines 28-52) that connects selectively the nozzles, by a waterwheel propelled by the water coming from the hose.

Midkiff discloses a floating debris collector adapted to float in a swimming pool. A pump driven propulsion system intakes water at one end and forcefully expels it at the other end. A filter is located at the intake to trap debris for ultimate removal and disposal. To clear the entire surface of the pool, the expulsion of the liquid is randomly altered in a center-right-left sweep. A

pressure sensitive transducer or switch is provided at the front of the skimmer to activate a reverse movement if the skimmer front impacts a pool edge or other obstacle.

Amended Claim 1 is nonobvious in view of Moriarty, Drew and Midkiff. In particular, none of the cited references discloses a floating cleaning device comprising two floating elements and a net-shaped collection container arranged therebetween, and a first and a second propelling means arranged respectively on the first and second floating elements.

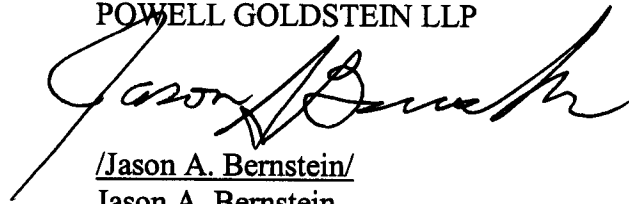
The technical problem is to provide a cleaning device for a water surface adapted to avoid the stop of the device when encountering obstacles, for example a corner of a swimming pool. The presence of two distinct floating elements has the advantage that the cleaning device is more stable, than a large collection container can provide. Moreover, the first and a second propelling means arranged on the first and second floating elements gives a large propelling moment, with small thrusts, so that a reduction of power is permitted.

Claims 2-7 and 10-11 are nonobvious as depending from amended claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such action. If the Examiner has any questions that can be answered by telephone, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
POWELL GOLDSTEIN LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Bernstein", is written over the printed name.

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